ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is provided for prosody generation by unit selection from an imitation speech database. A rule based method of text to speech conversion is used to produce a set of intonation events by selecting syllables on which there would be either a pitch peak or dip (or a combination), and produces the parameters to generate a pitch curve of the event. The synthetic pitch curve shape generated by the rule based method is then utilized to select the best matching units from an imitation speech database of a speaker's prosody, which are then concatenated to reduce the final prosody.